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GIVES BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF BRUNO KOEHLER
ON OCCASION OF HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

Bruno Koehler, [redacted] who has worked for more than 30 years for the cause of the working class, today celebrates his 50th birthday. He is one of the founders of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and a close collaborator of Klement Gottwald.

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Koehler was born on 16 July 1900 in Nova Mesto pod Smrkem, in Frydlant Okres. After leaving school in 1914, he started work in the print shop of the German Social Democratic Party in Liberec, and in the same year joined a labor union. Eventually, he was inducted into the Austrian Army, but the Austrians did not succeed in sending him to the front.

His political activity began at the close of World War I when, at the age of 18, he joined the Social Democratic Party in Ruzodol, near Liberec. From the beginning he was in the left wing of that party and, when the party split, Koehler went over with the Liberec left wing, led by Karel Kreibich, to the newly formed Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

In 1921, he was sent to Moscow as a delegate to the Third World Congress of the Communist International. The Soviet Union made a deep impression on Comrade Koehler, and he has always emphasized the significance of the Soviet Union in the fight for the liberation of the workers.

After the formation of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Koehler held a leading position in the Union of Communist Youth, both in the Central Secretariat in Prague and in Karlovy Vary. In 1924, he took over the job of Party Secretary in the Ostrava region. In 1926, he left the country for political training in Moscow.

He attended the Sixth Congress of the Communist International in 1928, and after that held the position of Party Secretary in Usti nad Labem and Liberec. During the economic crisis, he organized the mass strike movement against wage reductions and the firing of workers from the factories. In 1931, Koehler was appointed Organizational Secretary in the Central Secretariat of the Party and later became a member of the Politburo, a position

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he held until 1938. In 1933, he became a representative of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in the Communist International, and at the Seventh World Congress he was placed on the Executive Committee of the International. In 1935, he was elected to the Czechoslovak National Assembly. In the following years, Koehler tried to persuade the German citizens of Czechoslovakia of the dangers of Henlein's politics, and led the German antifascists who remained faithful to proletarian internationalism.

After Munich, Koehler was ordered by the Party to go to France, where he worked as a party functionary until 1941. After the outbreak of the World War II, he was placed in a French concentration camp, and in 1941 he left France for Moscow. There he was outstanding among the group of Czechoslovak Communists led by Klement Gottwald. For this work, he received the Soviet Order of the Red Banner.

At the end of the war Koehler was given a responsible position in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; here he worked on the indoctrination of Party personnel. He participated in the work of compiling the history of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and collaborated in writing the book The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in the Fight for Freedom.

Koehler is now the head of the cadre department of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

He has been decorated with the Order of 25 February First Class.

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